

An Epiphany Blessing of Family and Home

Around January 6, the symbol +C+B+M+ with two numbers before and two numbers after (for example, 20+C+B+M+11) is sometimes seen written in chalk above the doorway of Christian homes. The letters are the initials of the traditional names of the Three Magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. These letters also abbreviate the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The beginning and ending numbers are the year, 2011 in the example above. The crosses represent Christ.

This pamphlet provides a traditional Blessing for the Marking of the Doorways. You can use this service without marking your doorway. Share this simple prayer time as a family at the Dinner Table this week.

A Blessing for the Marking of Doorways

Leader: Peace be with this house and with all who live here.

Response (All): And peace be with all who enter here.

Leader: During these days of the

Christmas season, we keep this Feast of Epiphany, celebrating the manifestation of Christ to the Magi, and thereby to the whole world. Today, Christ is manifest to us! Today this home is a holy place because of the presence of Christ here.

Leader: Listen to the Gospel according to Matthew.

2:1 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2:2 asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." 2:3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 2:4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 2:5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 2:6 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" 2:7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 2:8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and

pay him homage." 2:9 When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 2:10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 2:11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 2:12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord to you.

Response (All): Thanks be to God!

Leader: O God, Lord of all that exists, you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill each of us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Response (All): Amen

(If you choose, after the service, go as a family to the door you most use and

write the symbols in chalk over the entrance.)

An Epiphany Prayer

Father, we thank you for revealing yourself to us in Jesus the Christ, we who once were not your people but whom you chose to adopt as your people. As ancient Israel confessed long ago, we realize that it was not because of our own righteousness, or our own superior wisdom, or strength, or power, or numbers. It was simply because you loved us, and chose to show us that love in Jesus.

As you have accepted us when we did not deserve your love, will you help us to accept those whom we find it hard to love? Forgive us, O Lord, for any attitude that we harbor that on any level sees ourselves as better or more righteous than others. Will you help us to remove the barriers of prejudice and to tear down the walls of bigotry, religious or social? O Lord, help us realize that the walls that we erect for others only form our own prisons!

Will you fill us so full of your love that there is no more room for intolerance. As you have forgiven us much, will you enable us with your strength to forgive others even more? Will you enable us through your abiding Presence among

us, communally and individually, to live our lives in a manner worthy of the Name we bear?

May we, through your guidance and our faithful obedience, find new avenues in ways that we have not imagined of holding the Light of your love so that it may be a Light of revelation for all people.

We thank you for your love, praise you for your Gift, ask for your continued Presence with us, and bring these petitions in the name of your Son, who has truly revealed your heart. Amen.

Scripture Readings
For The
Season of Epiphany

**Christmas 2A / Epiphany
January 2**

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 147:1-20
Psalm 72:1-14
Ephesians 1:3-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
John 1:(1-9), 10-18
Matthew 2:1-12

**Epiphany 1A
January 9**

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29

Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

**Epiphany 2A
January 16**

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

**Epiphany 3A
January 23**

Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

**Epiphany 4A
January 30**

Micah 6:1-8
Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12

**Epiphany 5A
February 6**

Isaiah 58:1-9a, (9b-12)
Psalm 112:1-9, (10)
1 Corinthians 2:1-12, (13-16)
Matthew 5:13-20

**Epiphany 6A
February 13**

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 I
Psalm 119:1-8
1 Corinthians 3:1-23

Matthew 5:21-37

**Epiphany 7A
February 20**

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18
Psalm 119:33-40
1 Corinthians 3:1-23
Matthew 5:38-48

**Epiphany 8A
February 27**

Isaiah 49:8-16a
Psalm 131
1 Corinthians 4:1-5
Matthew 6:1-34

**Epiphany 9A
March 6, 2011**

Deuteronomy 11:18-21, 26-28
Psalm 31:1-5, 19-24
Romans 1:16-17; 3:22b-28, (29-31)
Matthew 7:1-29

An Epiphany Prayer

Lord Jesus may your light shine our way, as once it guided the steps of the magi: that we too may be led into your presence and worship you, the Child of Mary, the Word of the Father, the King of nations, the Saviour of mankind; to whom be glory for ever.

Frank Colquhoun



Community Baptist Church

The Season of Epiphany

January 2 to March 6, 2011

*The Blessing
of*

Family & Home

Epiphany Prayers

Scripture Readings